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✓ **Pollard: Top Israelis Backed Spy Ring** *U.S. Tells Espionage Contacts They May Face Indictment*

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Admitted spy Jonathan Jay Pollard said yesterday that his Israeli contacts told him "the highest levels of the Israeli government" had thanked him for passing U.S. military secrets to Tel Aviv.

Although Israel has repeatedly insisted that the Pollard spy ring was a "renegade operation," Pollard said in a memorandum filed in federal court that it is "beyond reason" to believe that senior Israeli officials were unaware of his spying.

Pollard, a former U.S. Navy intelligence analyst who pleaded guilty last June to espionage, made the assertions in a 61-page document filed in advance of his March 10 sentencing. Pollard faces a maximum penalty of life in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Pollard called himself a "misguided idealist" and said he "felt like a prostitute" for accepting payments from Israel. Prosecutors have said the Israelis paid Pollard \$2,500 a month, financed European vacations for him and his wife and promised him \$300,000 more over 10 years.

Israeli Embassy spokesman Yossi Gal said Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir reiterated on his recent visit here "that this was a rogue oper-

ation that was not authorized and against the will of the government. As far as we're concerned, the matter is closed."

But Justice Department sources said they find Pollard's account credible. Jerusalem Post correspondent Wolf Blitzer recently reported that Pollard was a "master spy" who gave Israel access to virtually all U.S. intelligence.

Sources said the Justice Department recently notified Israeli Air Force commander Aviem Sella, Pollard's first handler, that he could face indictment in the case. The department told three other Israelis, including Rafael Eitan, a former terrorism adviser to two prime ministers, that it plans to revoke their immunity from prosecution in the case.

Pollard said the material he provided "was so unique that anyone . . . would have known about the existence of an agent working in the American intelligence establishment."

"A near-famous ex-Mossad [Israeli intelligence agency] assistant chief of operations . . . a highly decorated member of the air force, two senior science attaches and a leading international arms broker do not coalesce out of thin air," Pollard said.

"At the end of each month," he said, "I was given an extremely detailed list of material which was

needed by the various organizations that included an explanation of why the information officially transferred did not satisfy their requirements There was always one prioritized list which had evidently been agreed upon the respective military chiefs of intelligence and bore their combined seal."

Pollard said he was "routinely provided with finished technical assessments of the material which had been passed to the Israelis," which he was told came from "a special team of analysts" in Israel. Since the material was based on satellite photography and signal intelligence, he said, Israeli officials had to be "cognizant that it was not being transferred through official channels."

Pollard said his handlers told him that "Israel's dependence upon a 'special source' " was mentioned at presentations to the Israeli cabinet.

Pollard said he was motivated by "anti-Semitism" in his Navy intelligence office, which he said had "an unbelievably cynical attitude toward Israel's survival High-level directives about releasing certain types of information to Jerusalem were routinely shelved by the men in the trenches, who felt that the 'Jews' didn't need to know anything."

The material he provided on Libya's air defense system aided a 1985 Israeli raid on Palestine Liberation Organization headquarters near Tunis, Pollard said. He said this was "a perfect example of where I thought my actions were of service to both Israel and the United States."

Pollard said he also provided data on Soviet bloc weapons and U.S. intelligence about Syria, Libya, Algeria, Iraq and Pakistan. Eitan once pressed him to provide information about the activities of the U.S. National Security Agency in Israel, but he refused, Pollard said.

Pollard said he worked without payment for six months "until the issue of salary was raised by Col. Sella." He said he felt "extremely dirty" about accepting money from Israel.